

## Message Text

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UNCLAS MEXICO 8153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE

REF.: STATE 183151

1. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH ONLY TWO OF THE THREE MEXICANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE. BUSY SCHEDULES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS PREVENTED AN EARLIER FULL REPORT AND HOPEFULLY THE POST WILL BE ABLE TO SUBMIT THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE THIRD MEMBER WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

2. THE TWO PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY WOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE EVEN IF THEY KNEW OF THE PROGRAM CONTENTS BEFORE HAND. THEY PRAISED THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE US PARTICIPANTS, THE LACK OF US PROPAGANDA AND OBSERVED THAT US SPEAKERS DID NOT FLAUNT "THEIR REAL SUPERIORITY IN THIS FIELD." A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS "THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS" IN A SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE "THAT WAS HARD TO BEAT."

3. REGARDING FUTURE SEMINARS, BOTH PARTICIPANTS WOULD WANT TO ATTEND SUCH CONFERENCES BUT ONE THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY PAYING FOR HIS OWN EXPENSES. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND THESE CONFERENCES TO THEIR COLLEAGUES. ONE PARTICIPANT SUGGESTED THAT IN FUTURE CONFERENCES THE DISCUSSION PERIODS SHOULD BE EXTENDED AND MORE TIME ALLOTTED TO THE EXAMINATION OF ISSUES IN GREATER DEPTH.

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4. BOTH PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN THE

PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION OF SIMILAR SEMINARS IN MEXICO.  
ONE RESPONDENT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS "NOT A RHETORICAL  
ANSWER" AND THAT HIS "DECISION TO COLABORATE IN ITS ORGANIZATION  
SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT VERY SERIOUSLY."

5. NEITHER PARTICIPANT CAME FORTH WITH ANY PRECISE PROGRAM FOR  
FOLLOWUP, ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT AND USEFUL.  
ONE SUGGESTION CALLED FOR A "CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES  
AND DOCUMENTS AMONG PARTICIPANTS, AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED  
THROUGH THE US EMBASSY."

6. THE GENERAL FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT  
CRITICISM. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SUGGESTION TO CUT DOWN THE  
NUMBER OF TOPICS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE PANEL DISCUSSION TIME  
SO THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD "HAVE A CHANCE; TO REALLY DIG  
INTO THEM."

7. ONE PARTICIPANT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE EDITORIAL PAGE OF  
A LEFT LEANING PAPER AND WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTED HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE US SAID, "THE CLIMATE OF  
FREEDOM AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WAS MADE ABSOLUTELY  
CLEAR FOR ME WITH THE VISIT TO THE NON-COMMERCIAL TELEVISION  
STATION; AT THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON "UNDERGROUND" AND "ESTABLISHMENT"  
PRESS AND AT THE CLOSING DINNER OF THE SEMINAR (WITH THE SPEECH  
OF THE WASHINGTON POST VICE PRESIDENT). THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST  
CHARACTERISTIC TRAIT OF THE AMERICAN PERSONALITY..."

8. IN A VERY BRIEF SUMMARY, THE POST WISHES TO ADD THAT  
PARTICIPANTS WANT TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE SEMINAR, BOTH IN THE US AND THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE.  
POST ALSO SUGGESTS A NEWSLETTER TYPE METHOD OF KEEPING FORMER  
PARTICIPANTS INFORMED OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS, OF SIMILAR SEMINARS  
TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND EVEN SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR USE IN THE NEWSLETTER AS A FOLLOW UP TO THIS PROGRAM.  
THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD ORIGINATE IN WASHINGTON.

9. POST AGREES WITH THE COMMENTS THAT DISCUSSION PERIODS  
WERE TOO BRIEF AND AT TIMES INTERRUPTED AND CUT SHORT UNJUSTIFIABLY.  
ALTHOUGH MOST PARTICIPANTS SEEMED TO BE PLEASED WITH STANFORD  
FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT, THE POST OBSERVER FELT THAT A MORE  
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INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR FUTURE MEETINGS  
WHERE PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT SEPARATED BY DESKS (CLASSROOM  
ATMOSPHERE) BUT COULD MEET IN A MORE UNINCUMBERED ENVIRONMENT,  
ONE MORE CONDUCIVE TO BREAKING DOWN PERSONAL INHIBITIONS  
QUICKLY, AND GET THE CONVERSATION GOING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE  
CONFERENCE RATHER THAN AT THE END.

10. NEVERTHELESS, THE POST WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZERS

FOR A WELL PLANNED SEMINAR, ONE WHICH IMPRESSED THE MEXICANS  
FOR THE HUMANESS THEY FOUND IN US PARTICIPANTS AND FOR THE  
CONCERN THAT WAS SHOWN FOR EACH PARTICIPANT'S INTELLECTUAL NEEDS  
AND FOR HIS PERSONAL COMFORTS AS WELL.  
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